

North Cumberland Fire District

Annual Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2010

Opening:

The annual meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District (NCFD) was called to order at

7:09 p.m. on Wednesday, June 16, 2010, by Chairman Edward LeBlanc. The Pledge of Allegiance was executed.

A. Election of Moderator

Motion was made by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Lindquist, to elect Edward LeBlanc as moderator. All in favor. So voted.

B. Roll Call

Edward LeBlanc Present

John Aharonian Present

Robert Audette Absent

Brian Campbell Present

Mathew Gannon Present

John Patrick McCoy Present

Paul Lindquist Present

Michael Spaziani Present

C. Due Proof of Notice of Annual Meeting

Copies of notices (attached) placed in The Valley Breeze and The Call, June 3 and 10, 2010 were presented. No dispute arose.

D. Swearing in of New Firefighter

Firefighter David Ferreira, who joined NCFD full time on December 14, 2009, was sworn in by Chairman Edward LeBlanc.

Firefighter Robert O'Neill was acknowledged for his 20 years of service to the District.

E. Minutes of June 17, 2009 Annual Meeting

Motion was made by Richard Souci, seconded by James Conway to accept the Minutes of the Annual Meeting dated June 17, 2009. All in favor. So voted.

F. Communications/Reports

Chairman of Board of Trustees

Chairman LeBlanc referred to:

- Hiring of firefighter David Ferreira**
- Signing of three (3) year contract with Chief DelVecchio**
- Chief DelVecchio's implementation of new management practices**
- Improved phone system**
- Revenue producing policy to file claims with insurance companies for service to non-residents**

- Working to reduce cost of administrating NCFD healthcare program
- Citizens well served during severe flooding
- Criminal activity of an individual who cut a fire hose
- Civil suit being processed alleging violation of an injunction
- Possible merger of fire districts, as either part of town government or merging into one district, being discussed by the Mayor's office.
- Loss of excise tax income from the state (\$112,000.) representing 5.5% of NCFD budget.
- District authorized by the state to tax vehicles. The process of taxing vehicles and the amount realized is problematic.
- Tax appeal filed in Superior Court contesting NDFD's authority to tax inventory.
- Tax Sale, spring 2011
- Attempting to cut costs by monitoring overtime and administrative costs.
- Concern with hydrant fees totaling \$85,000. payable to the Water Department
- Passing of former Deputy Chief Garon
- Union contract expiring June 30, 2011. Negotiations to begin in January/February.

Fire Chief's Report

Chief DelVecchio highlighted:

- Influx of additional runs in the month of March due to flooding, responding to approximately 225 incidents in the first week.
- Dispatch handled by the police department and the inability to keep

up with the call volume, much of the responsibility was transferred directly to the station.

- Department personnel, as well as members of the other districts, in town were commended for their efforts during the flooding.
- Documentation provided to FEMA for reimbursement of overtime response and equipment costs related to the flooding.
- FEMA grant funding received (\$130, 125.) benefiting all districts and the rescue service to provide computer aided dispatch software, providing greater communication with dispatch. Administrative and fire records package included.
- Detailed in the Chief's Report, personnel have participated in nearly 1,700 hours of training over the last year.
- Groundbreaking ceremony for the State Fire Academy Training Site
- Members of the Department instrumental in H1N1 Clinics throughout the state.
- Implemented Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) Committee within the District as well as town-wide with the four fire districts and rescue. Working on town-wide SOG to enhance the operations and safety of personnel on an emergency scene within the town.
- Call firefighter force increased to twelve (12)
- Along with other fire districts, working to improve radio communications with the town
- Implemented policy for new hires requiring member to maintain Emergency Medical Technician Cardiac level certification.
- Lt. Emerson applied for a grant through FEMA DHS to provided \$65,000. worth of equipment for advanced cardiac life support

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Murray reported being on budget on all items for the year. NCFD has collected 90% of the tax revenue that was billed out for the current year.

Tax Collector's Report

Tax Collector Klara reported taxes assessed for this year were \$1,745,364.44. As of the end of May, \$1,721,314. in taxes were collected.

Mr. William Dennen inquired as to how much the District has in savings. Treasurer Murray reported that although it fluctuates, because most revenue is received in the fall and spent out throughout the year, generally speaking there is a surplus right now of about \$100,000.

Mr. Michael Kanakry asked if there was any other cash floating in any other place than whatever is showing on these reports. Treasurer Murray responded no.

G. Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Annual Budget

Moderator LeBlanc read aloud each line item of the proposed 2010-2011 Budget.

Questions were raised on the following line items:

6250 B/C, M/M, D/D, & Vision Care \$220,780. 260,000. 39,220

Mr. William Dennen asked how many full-time firefighters were covered. Chairman LeBlanc reported fourteen (14). Included in the 14 is one retired Chief. It was reported that the firefighters contribute toward the cost of their health insurance. Chief DeVecchio reported an 8% increase in Blue Cross this year. He is working with the other Chiefs in town, looking at ways to reduce the overall cost of health coverage

6440 Christmas Event/Appreciation Dinner \$ 225. 2,000. 1,775.

Mr. Johnson questioned the increase on line item 6440. Chairman LeBlanc explained two social events are funded each year, the Lighting of the Green and an Appreciation Dinner for the firefighters. In the past, the Appreciation Dinner had a separate line item number or it was funded out of the Chief's expenses, this year the line items were combined.

6480 Professional Fees \$ 2,700. 28,000. 25,300

In anticipation to sizeable legal fees associated with a past employee of the department who feels that he was wrongfully terminated and is seeking reinstatement or a disability pension and who has also filed an open meetings law violation, professional fees have increased.

Request was made, that on the expense side, an eleven month actual column be added to future proposed budgets. Treasurer Murray agreed.

The FY 2010/2011 budget proposed to the members of the District represents a tax rate of \$1.56 per thousand.

Motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to accept the budget as proposed. All in favor. So voted.

H. Election of Trustees

Vacancies for two (2) openings for Trustee positions were advertised in the Valley Breeze, June 3, 2010. Responses were received from Michael Spaziani and Brian Campbell.

A motion was made by Mr. Souci, seconded by Mr. Conway, that both candidates be elected or be submitted for nomination. All in favor. So voted.

I. Old Business

J. New Business

K. Public Comment

Mr. William Dennen requested a sign be placed on the lawn of the fire station publicizing the annual meeting.

A motion was made by Richard Susi, seconded by Diane Karolyshyn, that the District appropriate \$100.00 to come up with an appropriate sign to put on the lawn, as apparently it was tradition in years past. All in favor. So voted.

Mr. Michael Kanakry requested a copy of the bi-laws.

Chairman LeBlanc explained that the building of a new fire station is still in the conceptual stages. It is an idea that Chief DeVecchio has continued to explore but given the economy since September of 2008, the Board feels that the district is not prepared to move in that direction at the present time.

Mr. Michael Kanakry asked the status of a new tax on automobiles. Chairman LeBlanc explained that what the Mayor is doing with the town is completely independent of what is done at NCFD. Last week, the Legislature granted fire districts the authority to tax vehicles to make up for the loss of excise tax income once received from the state. With the authority granted last week, the annual meeting this evening and the fiscal year beginning July 1, the Board felt that the fairest and most efficient way was to reflect the loss in the property

taxes for this year.

Mr. Michael Kanakry initiated conversation regarding hydrant fees.

Adjournment

Motion is made by Mr. James Conway seconded by Zeneta Klara to adjourn the June 16, 2010 meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District at 8:28 p.m. All in favor. So voted.

Minutes submitted by: Fay Dakake, Clerk _____

Approved by: Edward LeBlanc _____

Chairman